

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6964

BILL NUMBER: HB 1341

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 24, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Ports of Indiana.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Stemler

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: The bill changes the name of the Indiana Port Commission to the Ports of Indiana (POI).

It provides that interviews and negotiations between the POI and industrial or commercial prospects may be held in executive session. It also provides that certain records concerning negotiations between the POI and industrial, research, or commercial prospects may be excepted from disclosure at the discretion of the POI.

The bill requires the POI to make the terms of its final offer of public financial resources available for inspection and copying after negotiations with a prospect have terminated. It deletes a provision stating that the current Port Commission is not immune from liability.

The bill renames the executive director or manager of the POI as its chief executive. It provides that the POI may limit or halt public fishing within certain areas if required to maintain port security.

The bill makes conforming changes and deletes obsolete language.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill will have indeterminate fiscal impact, but potential minimally increased cost savings or revenue based on the projects the Ports of Indiana may undertake. Savings may result from the estimated lower cost of conducting interviews with commercial and industrial prospects in an executive session rather than a public hearing. Also, costs for the POI may be reduced by providing immunity from liability, assuming it is the subject of liability cases.

Any change in compensation from an executive director or manager to a chief executive would be based on the decisions of the POI commission and expenditures would be paid by the Indiana Port Fund, a revolving fund.

Background: The Ports Commission is a body corporate and politic that exercises powers conferred to it by statute and performs essential government functions. It is governed by a seven-member commission appointed by the Governor. Its expenses are paid from the Indiana Port Fund, which is a special and distinct revolving fund. Allowable expenses include acquisition of land, studies in connection with port or project or in connection with transportation by water, intermodal transportation, and other modes of transportation, and to pay expenses of the commission. Commissioners receive an annual salary of \$7,500, plus reimbursement of actual expenses.

Explanation of State Revenues: To the extent that the POI would engage in more economic development projects to benefit the state under the provisions of the bill, state revenue may increase.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Ports Commission.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Karen Firestone, 317-234-2106.